

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: WHO

SUBJECT: WHO ROLE IN SCHISTOSOMIASIS CONTROL

1. DEPT BELIEVES THAT IT WOULD BE TIMELY FOR THE MISSION TO REVIEW WITH WHO THAT ORGANIZATION'S THINKING ON WHAT IT WILL PRESENT TO THE WHA IN MAY IN RESPONSE TO (EB/55. R22). AS MISSION WILL RECALL, EXBD RESOLUTION CALLED UPON THE DIRECTOR GENERAL TO INITIATE AN ANALYSIS OF CONTROL MEASURES WITH THE INTENTION OF ESTABLISHING GUIDELINES FOR THE DIFFERENT STRATEGIES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED FOR CONTROL OPERATIONS ON A GLOBAL BASIS, DUE CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN TO COST EFFECTIVENESS AND TO PREVENTIVE MEASURES IN THE PLANNING OF WATER AND LAND USE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. DG WAS ALSO ASKED TO SEEK COOPERATION OF MEMBERS, OTHER IO'S AND LENDING INSTITUTIONS TO SUPPORT WHO'S COORDINATING ROLE.

2. DURING EXBD MEETING GOODMAN MADE AVAILABLE TO USDEL PAPER EXPLAINING WHO'S PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A PROGRAM FOR RESEARCH AND TRAINING ON PARASITIC DISEASES IN AFRICA. SCHISTOSOMIASIS IS ONE OF THE DISEASES COVERED BY THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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PROGRAM. INTERESTED US AGENCIES ARE STUDYING THAT

PAPER AND WILL REACT SEPARATELY TO IT. WE DO NOT ASSUME THAT THIS WILL CONSTITUTE WHO'S MAIN THRUST IN DEALING WITH SCHISTOSOMIASIS.

3. AS WAS POINTED OUT IN ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY EDWARDS' LETTER TO MAHLER OF OCTOBER 25, 1974, WE ENVISAGED WHO PLAYING A ROLE OF COORDINATOR OF INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES RELATIVE TO DISEASE. WE DO NOT FORESEE THEM ENGAGING IN BASIC RESEARCH OR IN OPERATIONAL PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO CONTROL SCHISTOSOMIASIS, NOR THAT SCHISTO PROGRAMS WILL IMPORTANTLY BURDEN WHO'S REGULAR BUDGET. WE DO, HOWEVER, SEE THE ORGANIZATION PLAYING SEVERAL USEFUL ROLES:

A. AN EARLY NEED WHICH WHO SHOULD ADDRESS IS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR THE PREVENTION OF THE SPREAD OF SCHISTOSOMIASIS THROUGH WATER DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES. WHO, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE BANKS, UNDP, UNEP AND OTHER DONOR AGENCIES, SHOULD GET TOGETHER AND DECIDE ON A SCHISTO IMPACT STATEMENT WHICH SHOULD BE PART OF ANY WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT PRIOR TO ITS APPROVAL.

B. WE ALSO ANTICIPATE THE WHO WILL PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN GATHERING STATISTICS AND INFORMATION ON WHAT MEMBER GOVERNMENTS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ARE CURRENTLY DOING. FOR ITS PART THE UNITED STATES HAS BEGUN TO CATALOG ACTIVITIES BEING CARRIED OUT IN THE UNITED STATES OR BY AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS OVERSEAS. WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO MAKE THIS INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE WHO. WE WOULD HOPE, TOO, THAT THE ORGANIZATION WOULD ELICIT SIMILAR INFORMATION FROM OTHER MEMBERS WHO HAVE OR WHO HAVE HAD SCHISTO PROGRAMS. OCT. '75 MEETING IN CAIRO PRESENTS GOOD OPPORTUNITY ACCOMPLISH SOME OF THIS.

C. THE NEED EXISTS FOR ECONOMIC IMPACT AND COST EFFECTIVENESS STUDIES. WHILE SUCH STUDIES MIGHT BETTER BE MADE BY THE BANKS OR BY UNDP, WHO COULD PERHAPS IDENTIFY THE AREAS AND DEFINE THE SCOPE OF THE STUDIES AND SOLICIT THE HELP OF THE APPROPRIATE AGENCY TO DO THE STUDY.

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D. WHEN THE TIME COMES FOR ANY EXTENSIVE OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES WE WOULD ENVISAGE THE FORMATION OF A CONSORTIUM SIMILAR TO THE ONCHOCERCIASIS PROJECT IN THE VOLTA RIVER VALLEY OF WEST AFRICA. THIS WOULD AVOID BURDENING THE REGULAR BUDGETS OF THE AGENCIES.

5. IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED, THEREFORE, IF THE MISSION WOULD APPROACH THE APPROPRIATE WHO OFFICIALS INCLUDING

DR. ANDREW DAVIS WHO DISCUSSED SUBJECT WITH DEPUTY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOREY AT RECENT EDNA MCCONNEL CLARK
FOUNDATION - SPONSORED MEETING IN ST. LUCIA AND REQUEST

INFORMATION ON THE STATE OF PROGRESS IN PREPARATION OF THE
REPORT REFERRED TO IN PARAGRAPH 1 ABOVE AND TO ACQUAINT
THE ORGANIZATION WITH OUR CURRENT THINKING. SHOULD IT
PROVE USEFUL, THE MISSION COULD PRESENT THE ABOVE VIEWS IN
THE FORM OF AN AIDE MEMOIRE. INGERSOLL

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